



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

REMARKS BY DR. RASHID AMAN, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY, DURING THE COMMISSIONING OF THE KDIC-FUNDED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, AT THE SPINAL INJURY HOSPITAL NAIROBI, ON 23RD NOV.2021.

Mr. Mohamud A. Mohamud; Chief Executive Officer, KDIC.

Dr. Patrick Amoth, Acting Director General for Medical Services

Dr. Soren Otieno, Medical Superintendent; Spinal Injury Hospital

Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

I am pleased to join you this morning in commissioning some of the medical equipment in support of the work here at the Spinal Injury Hospital. I want to take this opportunity

to thank the Kenya Deposit Insurance Corporation represented here by their Chief Executive Officer for this kind donation. It will surely go a long way in helping to restore the lives of our people who come here for medical assistance. Asanteni sana.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For those of you who may not be aware, Spinal cord injuries are very devastating, if not fatal they are life changing.

The concerned individuals are affected physically and mentally and finds themselves with functional challenges that affect the various aspects of their lives.

Care for persons living with spinal cord injuries is very expensive both in the healthcare settings, rehabilitation centres and in the community. It therefore impacts not only

the person injured but also the family and the community at large.

Regardless of this, the individual living with a spinal cord injury after undergoing rehabilitation, is able to reintegrate in the community and live a fulfilling life, for some with significant independence.

It is for this reason that I want to commend KDIC who today are donating three patients monitors and four orthopedic beds. This equipment will go a long way in improving the spinal care and reducing the hospital stay for patients here.

This sort of collaboration from private partners complements the Government's effort of ensuring there is accessible and affordable healthcare for all.

Indeed, it is through such deliberate and collaborative partnerships among public institutions and even private, that we have been able to record great milestones under

the pillar of Universal Health Coverage adopted by the Government.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This facility has been in existence since 1944 and has even taken care of war veterans as well as the general public. It started as a private institution and has grown into a public institution under the Ministry of Health.

The government intends to have the facility grow even further to become a center of excellence in Africa, with the support of partners and other stakeholders such as National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF), National Transport and Safety Agency (NTSA), National Council of Persons With Disability (NCPWD), Association of the Physically Disabled in Kenya (APDK), KDCI Foreign Missions amongst others.

In this regard, we will ensure the staff is supported with the appropriate infrastructure and equipment. The clients will also be facilitated with the appropriate devices and technology. On the other hand, the staff will undergo appropriate continuous training even as we look at the staffing levels with a view to increasing the numbers. There will also be need to carry out a facelift of the facility including equipping it with more equipment among other reforms.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Depression, anxiety and stress are among the mental health challenges experienced by persons living with Spinal Cord Injuries. A study published by Guantai et al in 2019 found that there is a prevalence rate of 69.35%. among persons

living with Spinal cord injuries. The study was conducted on persons living with SCI from Nairobi, Nakuru and Machakos. This shows the need for psychosocial and mental health support for persons living with SCI. It is intended that these services be bolstered at the National Spinal Injury Referral Hospital and nationwide for further success of the rehabilitation programs and to facilitate reintegration while in the community.

Therefore, there is need to create awareness on prevention of the complications by persons affected by spinal cord injuries, as they have a negative impact on the outcomes for clients with spinal cord injury. This will serve to reduce morbidity and mortality among persons living with SCI therefore prolonging their survival rates.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We continue to support the process of registration for persons living with SCI as those living with disabilities. This allows access to the benefits provided by the Government during their stay in the facility and after resettlement in the community

Benefits available include tax waiver, access to educational and business opportunities, access to grants, access to modified vehicles or assistive devices and/or technology among others.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I conclude, I want to appeal to all Kenyans to take very extra precautions to safe guard themselves from any injuries and more particularly that which could affect their

spinal injuries. As part of these measures, I also encourage the use of reflectors for pedestrian safety, seat belt use, helmet use, harnesses at construction sites, not diving in shallow waters, appropriate road construction and signage. There is also need for well-lit roads, properly trained motorists, well trained pedestrians, appropriate vetting and licensing for firearm holders and tough sanctions for assault careless driving. There is also need for tough sanctions for unsafe sports, safety equipment in public and private vehicles, safety equipment in sports and safety regulations when engaging in sports, People should also avoid diving in shallow waters, avoid drink driving or engaging in activities when drunk, appropriate care for those with psychiatric illnesses especially those at risk for suicide attempts. These among other measures could help save lives.

With these very few remarks I want to official commission the KDIC equipment and also thank them once again for these kind gesture.

I thank you all.

Dr Rashid Aman

Chief Administrative Secretary